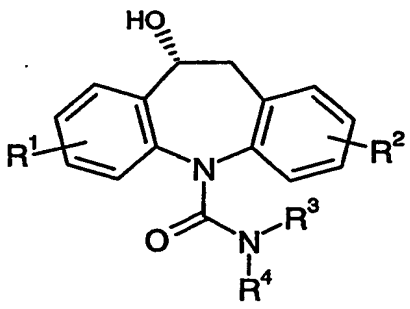
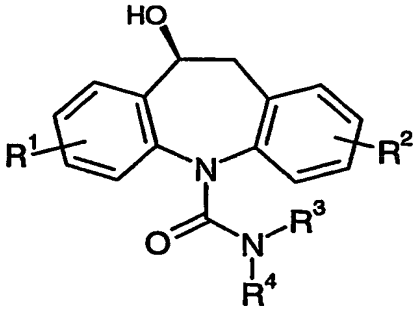
Claims:

1. A process for the production of a compound of formula Ia or Ib

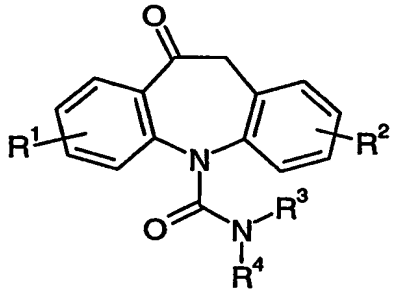

(Ia),

(Ib)

wherein

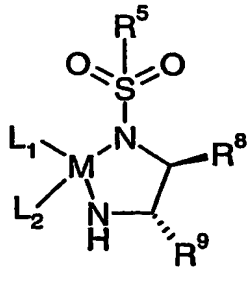
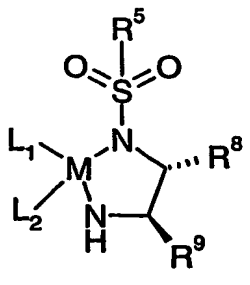
each of R^1 and R^2, independently, are hydrogen, halogen, amino or nitro; and

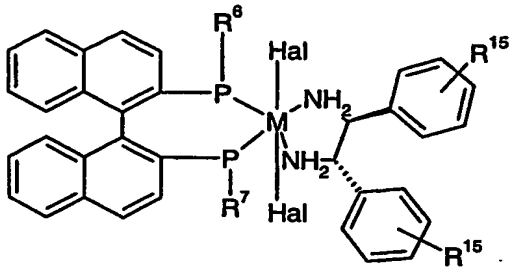
each of R^3 and R^4, independently, are hydrogen or C_1-C_6alkyl;

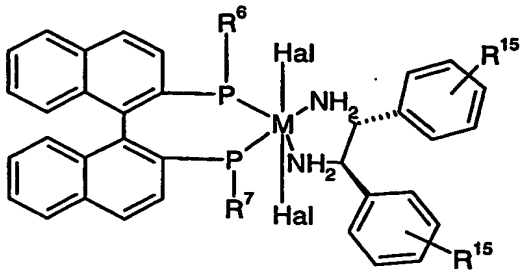
which process comprises the step of reducing a compound of formula II

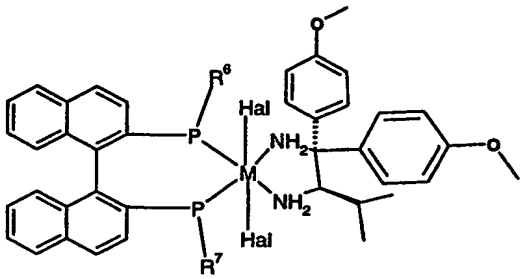

(II)

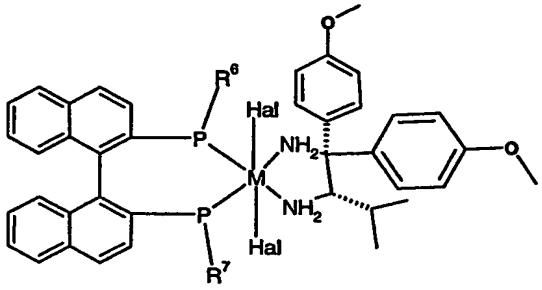
wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined for a compound of formula Ia or Ib; in the presence of a hydrogen donor and a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of the compounds of formula (IIIa), (IIIb), (IVa), (IVb), (Va), (Vb), (VIa) or (VIb)

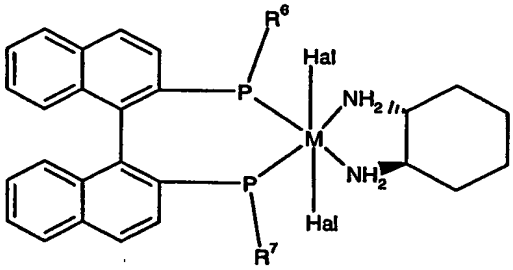

(IIIa),

(IIIb),

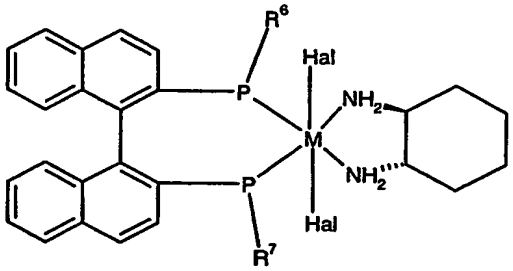

(IVa),


(IVb),


(Va),


(Vb),


(VIa),


(VIb)

wherein

M is Ru, Rh, Ir, Fe, Co or Ni;

L_1 is hydrogen;

L_2 represents an aryl or aryl-aliphatic residue;

Hal is halogen;

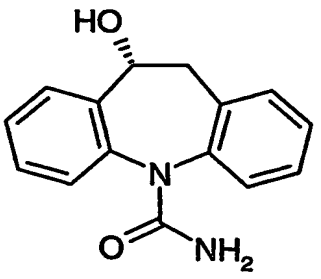
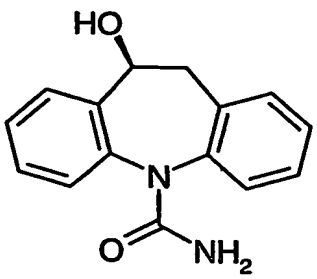
R^5 is an aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, cycloaliphatic-aliphatic, aryl or aryl-aliphatic residue, which, in each case, may be linked to a polymer;

each of R^6 and R^7, independently, is an aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, cycloaliphatic-aliphatic, aryl or aryl-aliphatic residue;

each of R^8 and R^9 is phenyl or R^8 and R^9 form together with the carbon atom to which they are attached a cyclohexyen or cyclopenten ring; and

R^{17} is H, alkyl, halogen, amino, dialkylamino, nitro or C_1-C_6alkoxy.

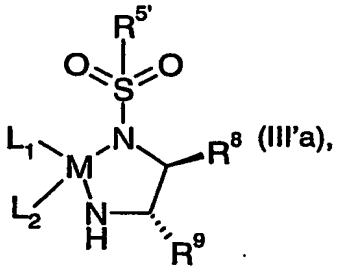
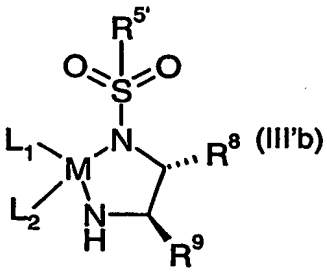
2. The process according to claim 1 for the production of a compound of formula I'a or I'b


(I'a),

(I'b)

3. The process according to claim 1 wherein the transfer hydrogenation step takes place in a water containing solvent system.

4. The process according to claim 3 wherein the transfer hydrogenation step takes place in the absence of an inert gas.

5. A compound of formula III'a and III'b


(III'a),

(III'b)

wherein

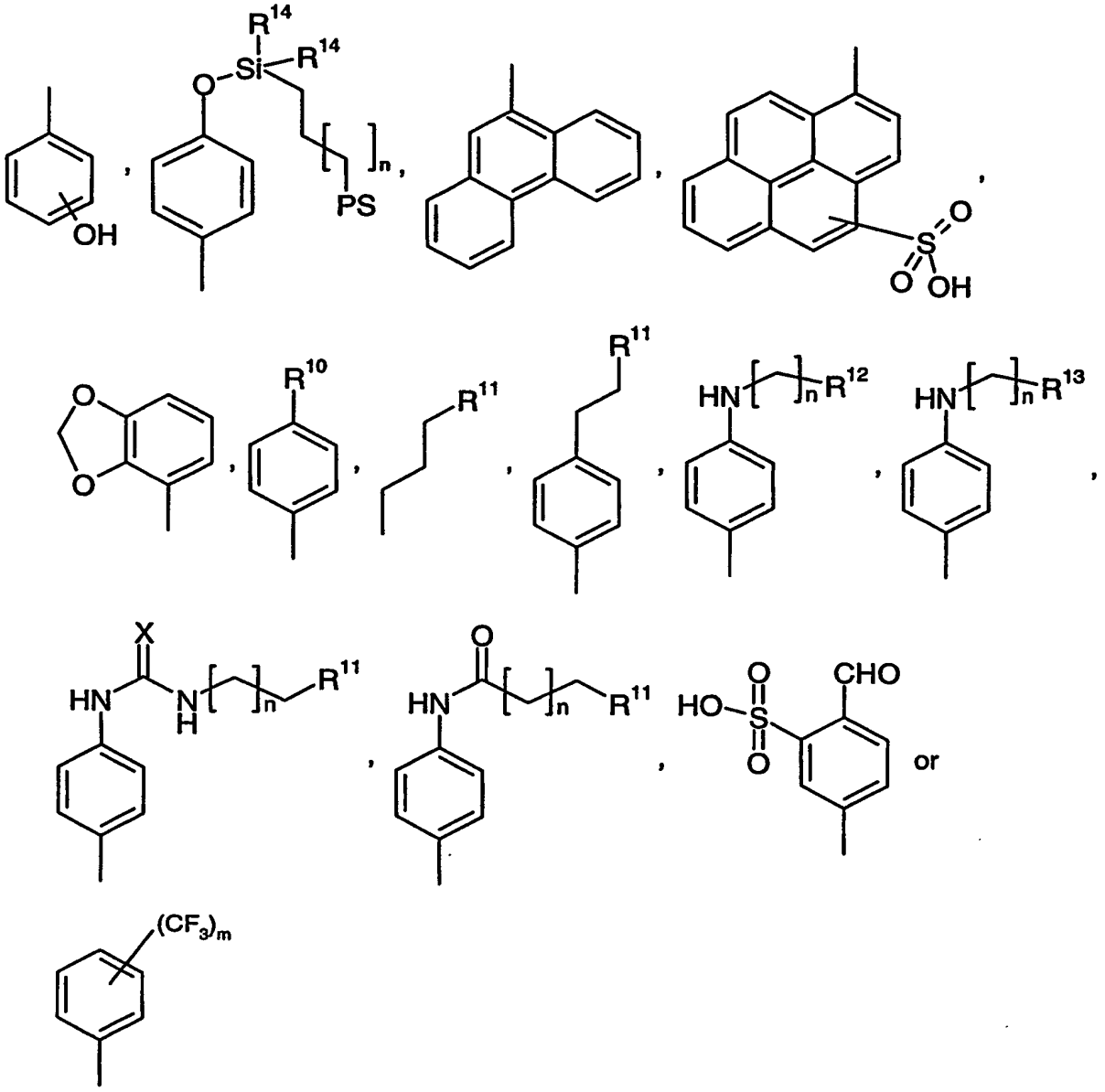
M is Ru, Rh, Ir, Fe, Co or Ni;

L_1 is hydrogen;

L_2 represents an aryl or aryl-aliphatic residue;

each of R^8 and R^9 is phenyl or R^8 and R^9 form together with the carbon atom to which they are attached a cyclohexyen or cyclopenten ring; and

$R^{5'}$ is a group of formula



wherein

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7;

X is O or S;

R^{10} is polystyrol;

R^{11} is silica gel;

R^{12} is cross-linked polystyrol;

R^{13} is polyethylene-glycol;

R^{14} is C_1-C_6alkyl; and

m is 1, 2 or 3;
or a salt thereof.

6. A crystal form of (R)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having the reference modification A, which is characterised by a powder X-ray diffraction diagram with d-spacings at 12.6, 8.8, 7.5, 6,28, 5.24, 4.93,3.84, 3.74, 3.42 Å.

7. A crystal form of (R)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having the reference modification B, which is characterised by a powder X-ray diffraction diagram with d-spacings at 8.9, 7.8, 6.8, 6.3, 5.59, 4.13, 3.90, 3.69, 3.29, 2.60 Å.

8. A crystal form of (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having the reference modification A, which is characterised by a powder X-ray diffraction diagram with d-spacings at 12.6, 8.8, 7.5, 6,28, 5.24, 4.93,3.84, 3.74, 3.42 Å.

9. A crystal form of (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having the reference modification B, which is characterised by a powder X-ray diffraction diagram with d-spacings at 8.9, 7.8, 6.8, 6.3, 5.59, 4.13, 3.90, 3.69, 3.29, 2.60 Å.

10. An anhydrous crystal form of (R)- or (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide, which is characterised by a melting enthalpy of between 122 J/g and 136 J/g.

11. The crystal form of (R)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having the reference modification B according to claim 7 comprising less than 5 % of modification A.

12. The crystal form of (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having the reference modification B according to claim 9 comprising less than 5 % of modification A.

13. A crystal modification of (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having a melting point between 193.0 and 197.0 °C.

14. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a crystal form according to at least one of claims 6 to 13 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15. Method of treating a warm-blooded animal suffering from epilepsy by administering a dosage of 10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide according to at least one of claims 6 to 13 which is effective for treating said disease to a warm-blooded animal requiring such treatment.

16. Use of a crystal form according to at least one of claims 6 to 13 in the treatment of epilepsy.

17. Use of a new crystal form of 10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide according to at least one of claims 6 to 13 in the production of pharmaceutical preparations, whereby a crystal form of this type is mixed with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

18. A process for the preparation of (R)- or (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having crystal form B, wherein
(a) (R)- or (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide are prepared according to a process according to any one of claims 2 to 4 for the enantioselective production of a compound of formula I'a or I'b, and
(b) the obtained product having crystal modification A or being in from amorphous form, is subjected to phase equilibration in a suitable solvent.

19. A process for the preparation of (R)- or (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having crystal form B, wherein
(a) (R)- or (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide are prepared according to a process according to any one of claims 2 to 4 for the enantioselective production of a compound of formula I'a or I'b, and
(b) the obtained product having crystal modification A or being in from amorphous form, is solved in a suitable solvent and a crystal of (R)- or (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide, respectively, having crystal modification B is added.

20. A process for the preparation of (R)- or (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having crystal form B, wherein (R)- or (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having crystal modification A or being in from amorphous form, is subjected to phase equilibration in a suitable solvent.

21. A process for the preparation of (R)- or (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having crystal form B, wherein (R)- or (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide having crystal modification A or being in from amorphous form, is solved in a suitable solvent and a crystal of (R)- or (S)-10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide, respectively, having crystal modification B is added.